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An optical detection system includes an excitation source to illuminate an object. An optical detection platform directs excitation radiation to the object. A detector receives emitted radiation from the object. The examined region is the same as or smaller than the diameter of the illuminated region, and is less than the entire surface of the object. The excitation radiation is focused at the surface of the object. The excitation radiation has a lateral extent less than the diameter of the object, and the detection system has a lateral field of view the same as or less than the diameter of the excitation region. The optical detection platform includes an excitation detector that measures reflected excitation radiation from the object. This information is compared to the location of microlocations and interstitial regions on the object to obtain alignment information. The excitation radiation is then directed to a microlocation or portion thereof.

Respectfully submitted,
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